

# Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club WIRELESS



## San Juan Island emergency communications room

(See Jim, K6UUW, visits Steve Marler, page 2)

### FROM THE TOP: Home Again Meeting October 17 at SDC

Well, the rain is here so it must be October. That means it is time for the nomination of Officers for the club. The club meeting will be October 17 at McDougal Hall on the Sonoma Development Center.

The Pacificon Amateur Radio Convention is coming up on October 19 - 21. Check out the website at <http://www.pacificon.org> for all the event information. It is a lot of fun.

There were a few club members traveling in September. I tried to use APRS in Scotland and had no luck. I heard one beacon the two weeks I was there. I ran my locator while I was traveling, but it was never heard. K6UUW was beaconing on his trip to the East Coast and he had much better success until he was shut down by a radio problem.

The weather is changing and it is time to check all the emergency gear for the winter season. Depending on who you listen to, it will be wet or it will be dry. I think your guess will be as good as anyone else's,

but being prepared for the worst never hurts.

Here is an interesting website for repeaters,  
<http://k5ehx.net/repeaters/qrepeater.php>.  
This website was listed in World Radio.  
You can type in a zipcode or city and it will  
show some of the repeaters in the area. It  
could be handy for when you are traveling  
in the US or Canada.

I still have a few parts left from the antenna  
project at the August meeting.

Hope to hear you on the air and see you at  
the meeting in October.

## ON CALL

by Ken McTaggart N6KM,  
ACS Unit Leader

The recent changes in FCC licensing have  
permitted more amateurs than ever to get  
on the high frequency (HF) bands. For  
those of us interested in emergency  
preparedness there are a lot of nets that  
can be used to practice HF techniques and  
message handling. Most of these nets  
follow the ARRL NTS message format but  
that is something that most of us should  
know in addition to the format of the ACS  
message.

Some nets to try on HF are:

- 1. California Traffic Net** - 3906LSB at 1830 hours on a daily basis. Covers the entire state.
- 2. Golden Bear Net** - 3975LSB at 1900 hours on a daily basis. This net has been around for years and is divided into three divisions for roll calling. It is a good spot to find traffic to handle.
- 3. Humboldt ARES Net** - 3960LSB at 1930 hours on Monday nights (check around 3965 also as the net moves its frequency from time to time). Say "hello" to our friends up north!

**4. San Joaquin Net** - 3918LSB at 1800 hours Monday thru Saturday. This is another net that deals with traffic in the NTS ARRL formatted messages.

**5. Swap Net (by WA6USL)** - 7235LSB at 1130 hours on Mondays thru Fridays. This is an informal net that allows hams to list equipment for sale and equipment wanted. It is interesting to see what some of the gear sells for and learn the asking prices of things you might be interested in acquiring.

For more info on the many nets available,  
go to [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) and look for the ARRL  
Net Directory on line. You will find it  
interesting and see a number of nets that  
you might be interested in learning more  
about. There are some for special interests  
besides traffic handling and emergency  
service purposes.

Remember HF means "have fun."

## Jim, K6UUW, visits Steve Marler



Steve and I in front of fire station.

(continued, page 3)

On our recent trip, we ended up staying in Everett, Wash, a city of over 100,000 north of Seattle.

Judy and I decided to pay a visit to Steve Marler, KD6KVK, who is now the fire chief of San Juan Island.

Steve lives in the town of Friday Harbor, which has its own fire department. Steve is the chief of the county department.

They have a ham club and what's unique is that they meet on the inter-island ferry. They make the rounds to each island picking up members and on the way home have their meeting.

The weather in the San Juan's is much dryer than the Seattle because they are in a rain shadow caused by the Olympic Mountains.

The town of Friday Harbor has a population of around 3500 and as you would expect, doubles during the tourist season.

The easiest way to get there is to take the ferry from Anacortes, Wash. It takes about an hour and if you leave your car and are a senior, the fare is very reasonable.

However, once you are there, you can ferry to any other island free.

Steve is still looking for a house and he showed us one possibility, four acres and lots of trees. Yes, we did discuss antenna sights there.

The firehouse is new and well equipped. You can see a shot of their emergency communications room on page 1. They have both HF and VHF/UHF capabilities. Across from this room is a classroom/training room that also can be used as an EOC.

So, if you are ever in the area, Steve would like to have you visit. Have him take you to his favorite hamburger place.

## THE VOMARC WIRELESS

### VOLUME 11 EDITION 9

A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF  
Honorary President in Perpetuity

### CAST OF CHARACTERS

Dave Dammuller, KD6FIL – President  
Eileen Adams, KG6QNT, Vice-President/Membership Chair  
Joan Brady, W6WXU – Secretary  
Ken McTaggart, N6KM – Treasurer  
Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer  
Ken McTaggart, N6KM – ACS  
Jan Bush, AE6FQ – Webmeister  
Joel Nadler, NN6J – VE Liaison  
Jim Hill, K6UUW, Elmer Coordinator  
Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Editor

*Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC—S. Marler.*

**CLUB MEETINGS** are held on the third Wednesday of each month at McDougal Hall at the Sonoma Developmental Center, Eldridge. Meetings start at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

**WEB PAGE:** <http://www.vomarc.org/>

**Nets** are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

**ACS** holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

**PACKET STATION INFO:** The VOMARC packet station is off the air until the Sonoma Police station renovation is completed.

**CLUB BREAKFASTS** are held on the first Saturday of each month at Issa's Restaurant, 18999 Sonoma Highway, Sonoma. The fun starts at 09:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:  
Eileen@vom.com

**Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.**  
32 Patten Street  
Sonoma, CA 95476

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**THE NEXT VOMARC MEETING IS ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, AT 7:30 P.M.  
AT MCDOUGAL HALL AT SONOMA DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER CU THERE!**

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**VOMARC MEMBERSHIP**

**VOMARC 2007** Membership Dues: \$15/year individual; \$5/year family member.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org). QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ APT: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

VOMARC: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Moment, From the Database Queen**

Please check the mailing label on this newsletter. It tells you when your VOMARC dues are due. Dues may be mailed to Ken N6KM, 402 Fourth Street East, Sonoma, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting. If there is any mistake, please do not shoot the messenger; email Eileen KG6QNT at [Eileen@vom.com](mailto:Eileen@vom.com). Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC**